

LISTING OF CLAIMS

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A topical composition comprising:  
at least about 5.0% (w/v) pre-treated ascorbic acid; and  
water, wherein the composition has a pH of more than 3.5 to 4.1 and does not  
have any chemical stabilizers.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The composition of claim 21, wherein the composition has  
a pH of about 3.7 to about 4.0.

Claim 4 (original): The composition of claim 1, further comprising an anti-inflammatory  
compound.

Claim 5 (original): The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory  
compound includes sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound.

Claim 6 (original): The composition of claim 5, wherein the sulfur-containing  
anti-inflammatory compound is selected from the group consisting of cystine, cysteine, N-acetyl  
cysteine, glutathione, cysteamine, S-methylcysteine, methionine and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (original): The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory  
compound includes aminosugar.

Claim 8 (original): The composition of claim 7, wherein the aminosugar includes  
glucosamine, mannosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, galactosamine, glucosamine-6-phosphate,  
N-acetylglucosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, N-acetylgalactosamine and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (original): The composition of claim 1, wherein the water is selected from the group consisting of distilled water, deionized water, distilled deionized water and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The composition of claim 1, further comprising about 0.5% to about 5% (w/v) of a non-toxic zinc salt.

Claim 12 (original): The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is zinc sulfate.

Claim 13 (original): The composition of claim 1, further comprising a tyrosine compound selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, N-acetyl-tyrosine, tyrosine ethyl ester hydrochloride, tyrosine phosphate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 14 (original): The composition of claim 13, comprising about 1 to about 10% (w/v) of the tyrosine compound.

Claim 15 (original): The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 16 (original): The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes glycerol, propyleneglycol, sorbitol, hydroxypropylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

Claim 17 (original): The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes alkyleneglycol, hydroxyalkylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A topical composition comprising:

an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) pre-treated ascorbic acid, having a pH of 3.5 to 4.1, and not having any chemical stabilizers, wherein the composition has a pH of more than 3.5.

Claim 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (original): The composition of claim 18, further comprising a non-toxic zinc salt.

Claim 21 (original): The composition of claim 18, further comprising a stimulant of protein synthesis.

Claim 22 (original): The composition of claim 21, wherein the stimulant of protein synthesis is a tyrosine compound.

Claim 23 (original): The composition of claim 18, further comprising a precursor of melanin synthesis.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The composition of claim 18, comprising about 15% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid.

Claim 25 (original): The composition of claim 18, wherein the topical composition is an aqueous solution, a serum, a lotion, an ointment, a cream, or a gel.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A topical composition comprising:  
an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) pre-treated ascorbic acid,  
having a pH of 3.5 to 4.1, and not having any chemical stabilizers, wherein about 10% to about 50% of the ascorbic acid is pretreated ascorbic acid;  
a non-toxic zinc salt; and  
a tyrosine compound, wherein the composition has a pH of more than 3.5.